

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

an account holder creating and associating a plurality of tokens with a financial account by recording the plurality of tokens in an electronic token log, which electronic token log is accessible by a computing device of an institution that is responsible for authorizing one or more transactions involving the account; and

the account holder initiating a transaction involving the financial account by providing one of the tokens previously recorded in the electronic token log and an indication of the account to a vendor, wherein the vendor is to provide the token, the indication of the account, and information about the transaction to the computing device of the authorizing institution, which authorizing institution's computing device provides the vendor with transaction authorization based on the token being found to exist in the token log,

wherein the vendor contacts the computing device of the authorizing institution through a communication channel that is distinct from a communication channel by which the plurality of tokens are recorded in the electronic token log.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the computing device of the authorizing institution receiving the token, the indication of the account, and the transaction information from the vendor;

the computing device checking whether the token exists in the token log; and

the computing device notifying the vendor that the transaction is authorized based on the token being found to exist in the token log.

3. (currently amended) A method comprising:

an account holder creating and associating a token with one or more conditions in an electronic token log that is accessible by the computing device of an institution that is responsible for authorizing one or more transactions involving a financial account; and

the account holder initiating a transaction involving the financial account by providing the token and an indication of the account to a vendor, wherein the vendor is to provide the token, the indication of the account, and information about the transaction to the computing device of the institution responsible for authorizing that transaction, which authorizing institution's computing device provides the vendor with transaction authorization based on the one or more conditions associated with the token in the token log being satisfied,

wherein the vendor contacts the computing device of the authorizing institution through a communication channel that is distinct from a communication channel by which the ~~plurality of tokens are~~ is recorded in the electronic token log.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

the computing device of the authorizing institution receiving the token, the indication of the account, and the transaction information from the vendor;

the computing device checking whether the token exists in the token log; and

the computing device notifying the vendor that the transaction is authorized based on the token being found to exist in the token log.

5. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving from an account holder an indication of one or more conditions for completing one or more transactions;

creating and associating a token with the one or more conditions in an electronic token log that is accessible by the computing device of an institution that is responsible for authorizing one or more transactions involving a financial account; and

the account holder initiating a transaction involving the financial account by providing the token and an indication of the account to a vendor, wherein the vendor is to provide the token, the indication of the account, and information about the transaction to the computing device of the institution responsible for authorizing that transaction, which authorizing institution's computing device provides the vendor with transaction authorization based on the one or more conditions associated with the token in the token log being satisfied,

wherein the vendor contacts the computing device of the authorizing institution through a communication channel that is distinct from a communication channel by which the ~~plurality of tokens are~~ is recorded in the electronic token log.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

the computing device of the authorizing institution receiving the token, the indication of the account, and the transaction information from the vendor;

the computing device of the authorizing institution checking whether the one or more conditions associated with the token in the token log are satisfied; and

the computing device of the authorizing institution notifying the vendor that the transaction is authorized responsive to the one or more conditions being satisfied.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the indication of the account is one of a credit card number, a debit card number, an online payment number, a merchant account number, and a bank account number.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the token log comprises an electronic data structure that associates specific tokens with one or more specific transaction conditions.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a transaction condition includes a maximum monetary amount for one or more specific transactions.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a transaction condition includes a pattern to match a name of the vendor for one or more specific transactions.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a transaction condition includes a time-frame in which one or more specific transactions are to be completed.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a transaction condition includes a number of times a specific token may be used to authorize transactions.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a transaction condition includes a minimum time interval between uses of a specific token to authorize transactions.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a transaction condition includes the existence of a specific token in the token log.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a transaction condition includes a mechanism for non-repudiation of the financial transaction.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the token log is stored in a communication device of the account holder.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the communication device is one of a telephone, a cell phone, a desktop computer, and a portable computing device.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein checking whether the at least one condition associated with the token in the token log is satisfied is accomplished by polling the account holder's communication device.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein polling the account holder's communication device comprises:

 sending to the account holder's communication device a structured message containing transaction information and the specific token; and

 receiving from the account holder's communication device a structured message indicating whether the transaction is approved or denied based on the satisfaction of the one or more conditions.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein polling the account holder's communication device includes:

 sending to the account holder's communication device a structured message containing the specific token;

 receiving from the account holder's communication device information from the token log pertaining to the given token; and

 using the information to determine if the transaction should be approved or denied.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the token log is stored at the location of the institution responsible for authorizing one or more transactions involving the financial account.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the token log is stored at a third-party location accessible to both the account holder and the institution responsible for authorizing one or more transactions involving the financial account.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the vendor is one of a seller of physical goods, a seller of services, a charitable organization, and an organization to which the account holder owes money.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein associating one or more tokens includes receiving the at least one condition for the one or more tokens from an external source.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein entries in the token log include an indication of a type of transaction corresponding to one or more specific tokens.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising automatically creating one or more token within a communication device of the account holder.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein providing the token to a vendor includes entering a pass code in order to access the desired token.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein providing the token to a vendor includes presenting a token that is known by the account holder to have been previously stored in the token log.

29. (cancelled)

30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) An electronic computing system comprising:

a token creator to enter and store one or more tokens in a computer memory for an account holder;

a token log to associate in the computer memory specific tokens with specific conditions under which specific financial transactions will be valid; and

a token access sub-system to make one or more tokens available to ~~an~~the account holder for distribution to one or more vendors involved in transactions pertaining to an account of the account holder, wherein each vendor is to provide a specific token, an indication of the account, and information about a transaction to an institution responsible for authorizing one or more transactions involving the account, which institution looks up the specific token in the token log and authorizes each vendor to complete each vendor's transaction responsive to the specific conditions associated with each specific token in the token log being satisfied,

wherein the institution looks up the specific token in the token log through a communication channel that is distinct from a communication channel by which the

institution is provided with the token, the indication of the account, and information about the transaction.

32. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the indication of an account is one of a credit card number, a debit card number, an online payment number, a merchant account number, and a bank account number.

33. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the token log comprises an electronic data structure that associates specific tokens with one or more specific transaction conditions.

34. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the specific conditions include a maximum monetary amount for one or more specific transactions.

35. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the specific conditions include a pattern to match a name of the vendor for one or more specific transactions.

36. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the specific conditions include a time-frame in which one or more specific transactions are to be completed.

37. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the specific conditions include a number of times a specific token may be used to authorize transactions.

38. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the specific conditions include a minimum time interval between uses of a specific token to authorize transactions.

39. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the specific conditions include the existence of a specific token in the token log.

40. (currently amended) An electronic computing system of a financial institution comprising:

a communication interface for receiving a token, an indication of an account, and information about a transaction from a vendor, which token was previously created and stored by an account holder in an electronic token log that is not accessible by a vendor but is accessible by the financial institution;

a transaction authorization module for checking whether at least one condition associated with the token in the token log is satisfied;

wherein the communication interface is to notify the vendor that the transaction is authorized responsive to the at least one condition being satisfied, and,

wherein the token, the indication of the account, and the information about the transaction are received at the communication interface through a communication channel that is distinct from a communication channel by which the transaction authorization module checks whether the at least one condition associated with the token in the token log is satisfied.

41. (currently amended) A computing apparatus comprising:

means for an account holder creating and storing one or more tokens in an electronic token log;

means for the account holder associating each token in the electronic token log with conditions under which specific financial transactions are valid;

means for the account holder accessing tokens so that they can be associated with specific financial transactions; and

means for a financial institution authorizing specific transactions by verifying that the conditions for the tokens associated with the specific transactions are met,

wherein the financial institution authorizes specific transactions through a communication channel that is distinct from a communication channel by which the tokens are associated with conditions in the electronic token log.

42. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising:

program code for receiving from an account holder an indication of one or more conditions for completing one or more transactions;

program code for creating and associating a token with the one or more conditions in an electronic token log that is accessible by an institution that is responsible for authorizing one or more transactions involving a financial account; and

program code for the account holder facilitating the initiation of a transaction involving the financial account by providing the token and an indication of the account to a vendor, wherein the vendor is to provide the token, the indication of the account, and information about the transaction to the institution responsible for authorizing that

transaction, which authorizing institution retrieves the token from the token log and provides the vendor with transaction authorization based on the one or more conditions associated with the token in the token log being satisfied,

wherein the vendor contacts the institution responsible for authorizing the transaction through a communication channel that is distinct from a communication channel by which the plurality of tokens are associated with one or more conditions in the electronic token log.

43. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 42, further comprising:

program code for receiving the token, the indication of the account, and the transaction information from the vendor;

program code for checking whether the one or more conditions associated with the token in the token log are satisfied; and

program code for notifying the vendor that the transaction is authorized responsive to the one or more conditions being satisfied.